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U.S. Serial No. 08/372,899  
Attorney Docket No. 0756-1173**REMARKS**

The Examiner is thanked for taking time to discuss the status of the present application in a telephone conversation held January 26, 2005. During the conversation, the Examiner suggested faxing copies of outstanding Information Disclosure Statement-related documents to (703) 872-9315, the number for After Final communications with the Examiner.

According to the Patent Application Information Retrieval System (PAIR), the status of the present application is as follows: "Remand to Examiner from Board of Appeals," and the status date is December 10, 2003. The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences issued an *Order Vacating Oral Hearing and Order Remanding to Examiner* (Paper No. 56), which requested consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed September 25, 2002. Although the Applicants have received an indication of consideration of the IDSs filed on March 18, 1993, November 24, 1999, August 22, 2000, October 11, 2000, December 12, 2000, January 10, 2001, October 3, 2001, April 22, 2002, September 20, 2002, May 9, 2003, February 5, 2004, and June 16, 2004, two outstanding IDS issues remain in the present application as detailed below. The Applicants respectfully request that these matters be resolved before returning the present application to the Board.

The Applicants have not received acknowledgment of the IDS filed on June 10, 1993 (received by OIPE on June 14, 1993), and full consideration of the IDS filed on February 9, 2000 (received by OIPE on February 14, 2000).

With respect to the IDS filed on June 10, 1993 (received by OIPE on June 14, 1993), the Image File Wrapper (IFW) includes a copy of all pertinent documents as noted below:

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06/14/1993	NPL Documents	PROSECUTION	3
06/14/1993	Foreign Reference	PROSECUTION	1
06/14/1993	Information Disclosure Statement	PROSECUTION	1
06/04/1993	Foreign Reference	PRIOR ART	22
06/04/1993	NPL Documents	PRIOR ART	2
06/04/1993	NPL Documents	PRIOR ART	8

It is noted that the date "06/04/1993" should be "06/14/1993." However, it appears that IFW is missing a copy of the Form PTO-1449 associated with the IDS filed June 10, 1993. Therefore, the Applicants have attached a copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the IDS. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the IDS filed June 10, 1993.

With respect to the IDS filed on February 9, 2000 (received by OIPE on February 14, 2000), the Image File Wrapper (IFW) includes a copy of all pertinent documents as noted below:

02/14/2000	Information Disclosure Statement	PROSECUTION	2
02/14/2000	List of References cited by Applicant	PROSECUTION	1
02/14/2000	Foreign Reference	PROSECUTION	30
02/14/2000	Foreign Reference	PROSECUTION	12
02/14/2000	Foreign Reference	PROSECUTION	23
02/14/2000	Foreign Reference	PROSECUTION	26

Although IFW does not include a copy of the three U.S. references cited in the IDS, copies of U.S. patents should be readily available to the Examiner. The Applicants received a partially considered Form PTO-1449, which only signified consideration of the foreign references. In light of the readily available nature of U.S. patents, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the three U.S. references cited in the IDS filed February 9, 2000.

At this opportunity, the Applicants wish to correct minor typographical informalities in the specification. Specifically, "surface-flattering" have been changed to


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"surface-flattening" (emphasis added). Other minor typographical informalities have been corrected. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present *Supplemental Amendment* places the specification in better form for consideration on appeal, does not contain new matter and does not present any new issues for consideration by the Examiner. Therefore, the *Supplemental Amendment* is believed to be appropriate for entry at this time.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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